

In re Patent Application of
John William Barr
Serial No. 10/629,328
Filed July 29, 2003

In the Claims:

Please substitute the currently amended Claims as set forth below in a complete listing of the pending claims. Struckthrough language indicates a deletion, and underlined language indicates an addition. The amendments include no new matter and are fully supported in the application as filed.

1.(currently amended) A cover for a mattress, comprising:

an expanse of material having a generally planar extent sufficient for covering at least a portion of an upper surface of said mattress, said expanse of material having a top and a bottom surface;

a plurality of spaced apart elongated bolsters extending upwardly from the top surface of said expanse of material and being substantially triangular in cross section, wherein individual bolsters of said plurality are adjustably positioned on the top surface of said expanse of material and are generally parallel to a periphery thereof; and

a plurality of connectors positioned on said expanse of material and engageable with said mattress to thereon secure said cover;

wherein said plurality of spaced apart bolsters is are positioned on said expanse of material so as to generally approximately parallel at least lateral and foot peripheries of said mattress and comprises at least two individual bolsters sufficiently spaced apart along a lateral periphery of the mattress to therebetween leave a gap to aid ingress and egress of a person.

2.(original) The cover of claim 1, wherein the mattress further comprises a therapeutic mattress.

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3.(original) The cover of claim 1, wherein said plurality of bolsters comprises individual bolsters having an elongated dimension.

4.(original) The cover of claim 1, wherein said plurality of bolsters comprises individual bolsters having a generally triangular cross section.

5.(original) The cover of claim 1, wherein the adjustably positioned bolsters are connected to the top surface of said expanse of material by at least one hook and loop strip fastener.

6.(original) The cover of claim 1, wherein an adjustably positioned bolster is repositionable on the top surface of the expanse of material so as to change the distance between the bolster and a periphery of the mattress.

7.(original) The cover of claim 1, wherein at least one adjustably positioned bolster is repositionable on the top surface of the expanse of material so as to change the distance between the bolster and a foot periphery of the mattress.

8.(original) In combination, a bed and a therapeutic mattress having a cover therefor, the combination comprising:

a bed having a frame for thereon supporting a mattress;

a therapeutic mattress positioned on said frame, said mattress having a plurality of inflatable air chambers, and a periphery including a head periphery, a foot periphery, and two lateral peripheries extending therebetween;

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a cover positioned on said mattress, said cover having a generally planar extent sufficient for covering at least a portion of an upper surface of said mattress, said cover having a top and a bottom surface;

a plurality of spaced apart bolsters extending upwardly from the top surface of said cover, wherein individual bolsters of said plurality are adjustably connected to the top surface of said cover and oriented generally parallel to a periphery of said mattress; and

a plurality of connectors positioned on said cover and engageable with at least one other component of said combination to thereon secure the cover; wherein said plurality of spaced apart bolsters includes at least two individual bolsters sufficiently spaced apart along a lateral periphery of the mattress to therebetween leave a gap to aid ingress and egress of a person, and at least one individual bolster positioned along the foot periphery of the mattress.

9.(original) The combination of claim 8, wherein said plurality of bolsters comprises individual bolsters having an elongated dimension.

10.(original) The combination of claim 8, wherein said plurality of bolsters comprises individual bolsters having a generally triangular cross section.

11.(original) The combination of claim 8 wherein the adjustably positioned bolsters are connected to the top surface of said cover by at least one hook and loop strip fastener.

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12.(original) The combination of claim 8, wherein an adjustably positioned bolster is repositionable on the top surface of said cover so as to change the distance between the bolster and a periphery of the mattress.

13.(original) The combination of claim 8, wherein at least one adjustably positioned bolster is repositionable on the top surface of the expanse of material so as to change the distance between the bolster and a foot periphery of the mattress.

14.(original) The combination of claim 8 wherein said plurality of connectors comprises straps for securing the cover to the mattress.

15.(original) The combination of claim 8, wherein said plurality of connectors comprises straps for securing the cover to the bed frame.

16.(original) The combination of claim 8, wherein said cover includes peripheral extensions fitted over peripheries of the mattress and further comprises at least one strap for securing the cover to the bed frame.

17.(original) A method of helping prevent a person from accidentally rolling off a therapeutic bed, the method comprising:

providing a bed having a frame and a therapeutic mattress thereon, the mattress having a plurality of inflatable air chambers, and a periphery including a head periphery, a foot periphery, and two lateral peripheries extending therebetween;

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securing a cover on the therapeutic mattress, the cover having a generally planar extent sufficient for covering at least a portion of an upper surface of the mattress, the cover having a top and a bottom surface;

adjustably positioning a plurality of bolsters spaced apart on the top surface of the cover and extending upwardly therefrom, wherein individual bolsters of the plurality are connected thereto and oriented generally parallel to a periphery of said mattress; and

securing the cover to the bed by connecting a plurality of connectors therebetween;

wherein adjustably positioning includes connecting at least two individual bolsters on the top surface of the cover sufficiently spaced apart along a lateral periphery of the mattress to therebetween leave a gap to aid ingress and egress of a person, and connecting at least one individual bolster along the foot periphery of the mattress adjustably responsive to body length of a person using the bed.

18.(original) The method of claim 17, wherein the plurality of bolsters comprises individual bolsters having an elongated dimension.

19.(original) The method of claim 17, wherein the plurality of bolsters comprises individual bolsters having a generally triangular cross section.

20.(original) The method of claim 17, wherein the adjustably positioned bolsters are connected to the top surface of the cover by at least one hook and loop strip fastener.

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21.(original) The method of claim 17, wherein an adjustably positioned bolster is repositionable on the top surface of the cover so as to change the distance between the bolster and a periphery of the mattress.

22.(original) The method of claim 17, wherein at least one adjustably positioned bolster is repositionable on the top surface of the expanse of material so as to change the distance between the bolster and a foot periphery of the mattress.

23.(original) The method of claim 17, wherein securing comprises connecting the cover to the mattress.

24.(currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein securing comprises ~~connecting~~ connecting the cover to the bed frame.

25.(original) The method of claim 17, wherein securing further comprises fitting peripheral extensions of the cover over the mattress.